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Georgia Southern University honors local businessman

APRIL 7, 2008

Late Jesup businessman Norris B. Strickland has been posthumously named Alumnus of the Year by Georgia Southern University's College of Education.

Strickland was owner and president of Norris B. Strickland and Associates Inc., and owner and developer of Whitepath Lodge in Ellijay, Ga.

Strickland earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University in 1953.

Strickland was posthumously honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

He was active in alumni activities at Georgia Southern, serving on the University's Foundation Board of Directors, as Lettermen's Club past president, Alumni Association Board of Directors, was chosen as the Alumnus of the Year in Private Enterprise in 2004 and as Alumnus of the Year for the Association in 1980.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Strickland was college athlete who played professional baseball with the Cleveland Indians organization for six years. He is a past president of the Jesup Jaycees, a past Jesup city commissioner, vice president of the Jesup Rotary Club, recreation commissioner for Jesup-Wayne County, and president of the Lakeview Golf and Country Club and an active member of Epworth United Methodist Church.

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Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Workshop at Georgia Southern University will focus on "Improving Corporate Performance"

APRIL 7, 2008

Business owners and employees who deal with difficult customers and time-management issues are invited to attend a workshop hosted by Georgia Southern University.

'Improving Corporate Performance' will be held on Thursday, May 1, in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building.

The workshop will be divided into two sessions. 'Strategies for Dealing with Difficult, Demanding or Angry Customers' will run from 8:30 a.m. until noon, and 'Basic CPR for Time Management' will run

from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Presenter Randy Gregg has a doctorate in human and organizational development. Certified as a mediator with the Office of Dispute Resolution of the 3rd Circuit Court of Georgia, he is a frequent presenter at businesses, non-profit organizations and governmental agencies throughout the country.

The workshop is con-sponsored by the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce.

The fee for the workshop is \$130 per person for the both sessions, or \$70 per person for one session. For chamber members, the fee will be reduced to \$100 per person for both sessions, or \$55 per person for one session. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to participants who sign up for both sessions.

For more information, visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/improve.html> or call (912) 681-5551.

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Performing Arts Center season will conclude with "Rent" on April 22

APRIL 7, 2008

The Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Georgia Southern University will conclude its 2007-2008 season by hosting the national touring production of an award-winning Broadway musical.

'Rent' will visit the PAC for a single performance on Tuesday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Set in the East Village of New York City, 'Rent' is a joyous, breathtaking and often heartbreaking story that celebrates a community of young artists as they struggle with the soaring hopes and tough realities of today's world.

'South African Idol' winner Heinz Winckler and 'American Idol' finalist Anwar Robinson head the cast for 'Rent,' which won the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and captured four Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Original Score.

Tickets for 'Rent' are \$45 per person for the general public. Georgia Southern faculty, staff and students will receive a \$5 discount for each ticket.

In addition, if any tickets are available 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the performance, any Georgia Southern student with a valid University I.D. can purchase one ticket for \$10.

'Rent' is the theatrical experience that transformed how a generation feels about musicals and inspired a major motion picture. It made a lasting impression on Broadway with songs that rock and a story that really resonates.

'Rent' made its world premiere off-Broadway at the New York Theatre Workshop in February 1996. Two months later, the show transferred to Broadway, where it continues to play at The Nederlander Theatre as the seventh-longest running show in Broadway history.

The PAC is located on the Georgia Southern campus at the corner of Road and Plant Drive. The box office is open every Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The box office is also open one hour prior to the start of each performance.

To purchase tickets or obtain additional information, call (912) 486-7999 or toll free (866) PAC-ARTS, or visit the PAC Web site at <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/pac> .

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Phi Kappa Phi symposium features student research

APRIL 7, 2008

Campus and community are invited to attend the Phi Kappa Phi Research Symposium on Friday, April 11. Presentations are scheduled throughout the morning in Rooms 3302 and 3314 in the College of Information Technology, and poster sessions are planned from noon to 1:15 p.m. in Room 3301. The symposium recognizes student research projects from all academic fields.

The symposium will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a reception and continue at 8:45 with remarks by Janet O'Brien, Symposium Chair, Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube, Georgia Southern Provost Linda Bleicken, and Teresa Thompson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

The symposium committee has approved 13 research projects for presentation and 12 research projects for poster sessions. Research topics vary from 'An Argument for Bilingual Education in Early Childhood Education' to 'Effective Grief and Coping during the First Year of Spousal Loss' to 'Simulation and Analysis of a Two-way Crossover, Bioequivalence Study Following a Two-Compartment Pharmacokinetic Model of an Oral Single Dose.'

Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and largest collegiate honor society dedicated to the recognition and promotion of academic excellence in all disciplines. Since its founding in 1897, more than 1 million members have been initiated.

Phi Kappa Phi has chapters on nearly 300 select colleges and universities in North America and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

President Bush nominates Georgia Southern University alumnus to SEC

APRIL 7, 2008

President George W. Bush recently nominated Georgia Southern University alumnus and well-known Atlanta attorney Luis Aguilar, 54, to fill one of two open seats on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Aguilar graduated from Georgia Southern in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. He is a partner in the Atlanta office of the McKenna, Long & Aldridge law firm. If confirmed, he would fill a term that expires in June 2010.

Aguilar is a former staff attorney at the SEC. Atlanta Magazine named him one of the most influential foreign-born Atlantans, and in 2006, Hispanic Business Magazine called him one of the "100 Influential Hispanics" in the United States. In 2005, he was named "Member of the Year" by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber for his contributions to economic development in the Hispanic community, as well as for his community and charitable efforts.

Aguilar, a native of Cuba, has been active in the Latin American Association in Atlanta and Hispanic National Bar Association. He served at least seven years on the board of the nonprofit Latin American Association, and was chairman from 2005 to 2007.

After graduating from Georgia Southern, Aguilar earned a law degree at the University of Georgia. He also holds a master of laws degree in taxation from Emory University.

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College Office of Undergraduate Research symposium is April 9

APRIL 7, 2008

The 2007-2008 winners of the Paulson Student Research Awards at Georgia Southern University will present their findings at an on-campus symposium on Wednesday, April 9.

The 15 students were awarded a total of \$25,000 in research funding from the College Office of Undergraduate Research (COUR), which is part of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (COST).

Free and open to the public, the symposium will be held from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the College of Information Technology Building's Professional Development Center. The symposium will be followed by an invitation-only dinner.

'The faculty of COST has always put a great of emphasis on research, and the Paulson awards are a great way to encourage our students to get involved," COUR Director Bruce Schulte said. 'These funds will help deserving undergraduate students obtain hands-on knowledge of the research process, such as reading the literature, acquiring data, and writing and presenting their findings."

The winners of the Paulson Student Research Awards are announced each spring. To be eligible for a Paulson award, a student must be enrolled as an undergraduate major in one of the units of COST, which includes the departments of biology; chemistry; construction management and civil engineering technology; geology and geography; mathematical sciences; mechanical and electrical engineering technology; and physics.

In addition, the student must be mentored by a member of the COST faculty.

The student had to submit an application that included a description of the proposed research project, an explanation of how the experience would benefit both the student and the mentor's research program, and a proposed budget of up to \$2,500.

Schulte and the COUR Committee reviewed the applications to determine the winners and the amounts of the awards.

'The students went through a very rigorous application process," Schulte said. 'The ones who emerged should be very proud of their accomplishments."

The awards are divided into two categories. One is for the math and science departments, and one is for the technology departments.

The math and science awards were presented to the following students:

- Thomas Anderson of Sylvania, Ga., received \$1,300 for his chemistry project titled 'An Investigation of Raman Spectrometry." His mentor is associate professor James LoBue.
- Kristin D'Antignac of Augusta, Ga., received \$1,750 for her chemistry project titled 'Fluidic Production of Molecular Hydrogen Using the Biocatalyst Hydrogenase." Her mentor is assistant professor Dontarie Stallings.

- William Edwards of Douglasville, Ga., received \$1,250 for his mathematics project titled 'Applescript Code Building and Analysis of iPod Calculus and Differential Equation Applications in College Classrooms.' His mentor is assistant professor James Braselton.
- Laura Halmo of Suwanee, Ga., received \$500 for her physics project titled 'Modeling the Dynamics of Mixtures of Bose-Einstein Condensates.' Her mentor is professor Mark Edwards.
- Philip Marley of Albany, Ga., received \$2,100 for his biology project titled 'Demography of the Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) on GLS State Park: Habitat Characteristics, Population Structure and Movement Patterns.' His mentor is Professor David Rostal.
- Joseph McGaughey of Macon, Ga., received \$2,495 for his biology project titled 'Investigating the Fate of Ingested Aeromonas Bacteria in the Housefly Midgut.' His mentor is assistant professor Dana Nayduch.
- Rebecca Rosenburg of Roswell, Ga., received \$2,200 for her biology project titled 'Novel Spiroplasma Species: Optimal Growth Temperatures and Growth Rates.' Her mentor is associate professor Laura Regassa.
- Leslie Sutton, of Columbus, Ga., received \$2,255 for her biology project titled 'Spatial Variation in Sedimentation Rates on Temperate Reefs of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.' Her mentor is associate professor Daniel Gleason.
- Joseph Waddell of Marietta, Ga., received \$1,600 for his biology project titled 'Ontogeny of Carapace Morphology and Behavior in Gopher Tortoises.' His mentor is assistant professor Lance McBrayer.

The technology awards were presented to following students:

- Christopher Aiken of Loganville, Ga., received \$1,950 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled 'Robotic Ink Jet Printing.' His mentors are Professor Don Armel and assistant professor Hung-Ming Cheng.
- Josh Caldwell of Epworth, Ga. received \$780 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled 'The Development of Techniques to Increase the Fatigue Life of Common Plastics.' His mentor is assistant professor Aniruddha Mitra.
- Brent Chenhall of Athens, Ga., received \$500 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled 'Vibration Analysis of Metal Tube Structure with Foam Inside.' Mitra is his mentor.
- David Cowart of Savannah, Ga., received \$1,630 for his mechanical engineering technology project titled 'Setup and Update of an Instrument for Measurement of Electron Emission from Sliding Contacts.' His mentor is associate professor Gustavo Molina.
- Danielle Lopez of Corrales, N.M., received \$2,390 for her mechanical engineering technology project titled 'Solar Vehicle Project 2007.' Her mentor is assistant professor Anoop Desai.
- Brendan McKee of Snellville, Ga., received \$2,500 for his electrical engineering technology project titled 'The Design, Analysis and Fabrication of an Automated Robot.' His mentor is assistant professor Youakim Kalaani.

For more information on the Paulson Student Research Awards program, visit <http://cost.georgiasouthern.edu/resources/cour/>, email bschulte@georgiasouthern.edu or call (912) 681-5807.

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Georgia Southern University honors local Augusta man

APRIL 7, 2008

Orthopedist James Becton of Augusta has been named Alumnus of the Year by Georgia Southern University's College of Science and Technology.

Becton is an orthopedic physician at the Augusta Orthopedic Clinic in Augusta, Ga. He attended Georgia Southern from 1952 to 1954. Becton was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

Becton has previously served as chief of staff at St. Joseph Hospital, as well as having served on the hospital's board as a trustee. Since 1971 he has served as a consultant with the U.S. Army at the Dwight David Eisenhower Hospital.

Becton served on the Georgia Southern University Board of Trustees Foundation Board from 1983 to 1986. He has served on the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology Advisory Council since 1999. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University in 1998.

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Georgia Southern University honors local Statesboro man

APRIL 7, 2008

M. Albert Burke of Statesboro has been named Alumnus of the Year by Georgia Southern University's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Burke is a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. He was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

Burke received his bachelor's degree in history in 1961. He has worked with the Boy Scouts of America since 1976 in various roles. He has also served as president of the Jaycees in Brunswick, Ga.; secretary of the Kiwanis Club in Brunswick, Ga.; and president of Rotary in Statesboro. From 1996 to 2003 he served as chair of the Bulloch County Board of Education.

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Georgia Southern University selects Frank Hook as Alumnus of the Year

APRIL 7, 2008

Georgia Southern University Alumni Relations Director Frank Hook has been honored as Alumnus of the Year by Georgia Southern's College of Health and Human Sciences.

Hook was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

Hook is a 1971 graduate of Georgia Southern, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in recreation. He has served as senior alumni relations director since 1995. Prior to that he was president of Southern Boosters Inc. from 1985-95; owner of Sports Buff Inc., 1979-91; and director of the Statesboro Recreation Department from 1976-79.

Hook is a member of the Statesboro Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter, serving as president in 1974, 1978-79, and 1995-97. He was Sigma Chi House Corporation president, 1987-95.

He serves on the boards of directors for the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce, the Bulloch County Red Cross, Bulloch County Cancer Society, and Southern Boosters.

Hook is a basketball official, serving as president of the Southern Basketball Officials Association, 1984-97; secretary of the Georgia Athletic Officials Association 1993-96; is a member of the Georgia High School Association, Georgia Independent School Association, and NCAA Women's College 1984-91.

He was named to *Outstanding Young Men of America*, was chosen Bulloch County Outstanding Young Man of the Year for 1975, Bulloch County Outstanding Young Layman of 1972, and *Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities*.

Hook is a member and deacon at First Baptist Church of Statesboro.

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Georgia Southern University honors Georgia Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture with President's Medal

APRIL 7, 2008

Terry Coleman, deputy commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, is the recipient of the President's Medal, presented by Georgia Southern University. Coleman was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

The President's Medal is a prestigious award presented for extraordinary professional accomplishments and contributions to the community and University. The award was designed by Christina Lemon, associate professor of art at Georgia Southern University.

'Terry Coleman has made numerous contributions to Georgia Southern University during his 34 years of public service as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives,' said University President Bruce Grube. 'Probably his most visible contribution came through his leadership and support in the establishment of the University's College of Information Technology, the only one of its kind in the Southeast.'

Coleman serves as deputy commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, where he has a special emphasis on international trade, homeland security and legislative issues. He previously served 34 years in the Georgia House of Representatives, where he was the Speaker of the House for two years, Appropriations Committee chairman for 12 years and the chairman of numerous other committees.

Coleman is also the founder of Coleman and Company Benefits Inc., a business insurance company, and owns two Huddle House franchises in middle Georgia.

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Georgia Southern University honors local Albany woman

APRIL 7, 2008

Albany accountant Olivia Suggs Flanagan has been named Alumna of the Year by Georgia Southern University's College of Business Administration.

Flanagan is the retired vice president of Flanagan and Waycaster Construction Company from which she stepped down in 2000. Prior to then, she served as vice president of Bristol Development Corporation, tax manager for Cousins Properties, and was a CPA with Arthur Andersen.

She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in accounting from Georgia Southern in 1969. Flanagan was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

Flanagan serves as a member of the Georgia Southern University College of Business Administration's Advisory Board; is a past president of the Georgia Women's Golf Association and serves on the organization's board of directors; and serves on the Georgia State Golf Association's Women's Tournament Committee, Finance and Handicap Committee, and is a rules official volunteer.

Flanagan is an ex-officio member of the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

She is a member of Doublegate Country Club and Stonebridge Country Club.

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Georgia Southern University honors Tracy Ham as Alumnus of the Year

APRIL 7, 2008

Tracy Ham of Atlanta has been named Alumnus of the Year by Georgia Southern University.

Ham is a regional account manager with Sony Electronics. He also serves as a color commentator with Comcast Sports South. Ham was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

'Tracy's impact on Georgia Southern University has been well-documented whether through his numerous athletics records or through his recent induction into the College Football Hall of Fame,'" said University President Bruce Grube. 'Even more impressive than his on-the-field heroics is his commitment to family and community off the field. I am proud to recognize someone who is not only one of the greatest collegiate quarterbacks to ever play the game, but a caring husband, father and friend.'

Ham received his bachelor's degree in recreation in 1995. As a student-athlete, Ham was a quarterback for the Georgia Southern football team. The Eagles won their first two NCAA FCS national championships in 1985 and 1986 with Ham under center.

He was named the Atlanta Journal-Constitution State College Player of the Year in 1984, 1985 and 1986, as well as to the Associated Press and Kodak All-America teams in 1986. He later enjoyed a long and successful career in the Canadian Football League. In 2007, Ham was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Twenty-two years after his final game as an Eagle, Ham still holds more than 40 game, season, career and playoff records at Georgia Southern. He is the only player in college football history to rush for more than 3,000 yards and pass for more than 5,000. In 2001, his No. 8 jersey was the first jersey to be retired by the Eagles.

Ham serves on the boards of directors for First Southern National Bank, the advisory committee for the Statesboro-Bulloch Parks and Recreation Department, the committee for the Boys and Girls Club of Statesboro, the Athletes in Action Team Ministry, and the committee for the Bethesda Home for Boys. Additionally, he serves as a spokesman for the United Way and for prostate cancer awareness.

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Georgia Southern University honors local Athens woman

APRIL 7, 2008

Charlene R. Jackson of Athens has been named Distinguished Biology Alumnus of the Year for Georgia Southern University's Department of Biology.

Jackson is lead scientist and microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service Bacterial Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance Research Unit.

Jackson was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

Jackson earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Georgia Southern in 1990 and 1992, respectively. She earned a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Georgia in 1998.

Prior to her current position, Jackson served as a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Avian Medicine at the University of Georgia's Poultry Diagnostic Research Center, and as a research assistant in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Georgia.

She has received the USDA-ARS Outstanding Performance Award for the South Atlantic Area, the USDA-ADS-Funded postdoctoral search associate, USDA-ARA Early Career Scientist of the Year Award for the South Atlantic Area in 2004 and was the recipient of the President's Award for First Year Graduate Students at the University of Georgia in 1992.

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Georgia Southern University honors Lawrenceville man

APRIL 7, 2008

Matthew Janofsky of Lawrenceville has been named Alumnus of the Year for Georgia Southern University's College of Information Technology.

Janofsky is Gladiator Technology Services' vice president for application development. He is a 1984 graduate of Georgia Southern who earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Information Systems.

Janofsky was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

He serves as a steering committee member for Georgia Southern's Information Systems Program, founded the Matthew Janofsky Scholarship in Information Systems, is a youth baseball coach, and is the Duluth, Ga., Men's Ice Hockey Team captain. He is a member of Johns Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta.

Prior to his current position, he served as project lead and developer for Alltel, customer support manager and systems analyst for OIN Banking Systems Inc., and a software developer for Unisys Corporation.

He was also a contract software developer with a variety of companies including TG Marketing Systems, The Coca-Cola Company, Safe Systems Inc., Delta Airlines, Innotrak Corporation, Residential Inspectors of America, IT Age Corporation, and UPS Supply Chain Solutions.

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Georgia Southern University honors Stockbridge man

APRIL 7, 2008

Rod Meadows of Stockbridge has been named Alumnus of the Year in Private Enterprise by Georgia Southern University. Meadows was honored at the University's annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5, in Statesboro.

Meadows is president of Meadows & Macie, P.C. He has practiced law in Henry County, Ga., since 1976. He has been chosen by his peers on several occasions as one of the Best Lawyers in the Health Care Law field for Atlanta Magazine and is listed in the national publication Best Lawyers in America.

Meadows earned his bachelor's degree in social science education from Georgia Southern in 1971. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1976.

Among his accomplishments, Meadows is the past chair of the State Bar of Georgia, Health Law Section. He is also a member of the American Bar Association, Georgia Bar Association, Flint River Judicial Circuit Bar Association and the Henry County (Georgia) Bar Association. In addition to health care law, Meadows serves as general counsel to corporations in the transportation, grocery, textile, manufacturing and insurance industries.

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Georgia Southern University Recognizes Outstanding Alumni at Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony

APRIL 7, 2008

Ten Georgia Southern University alumni were honored for their career achievements and support of the University at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet Saturday, April 5 in the Nessmith-Lane Center for Continuing Education Ballroom.

The University's Alumni Association presented its Alumnus of the Year and Alumnus of the Year in Private Enterprise awards. The prestigious President's Medal was also presented.

Georgia Southern University's eight colleges each honored its alumnus of the year as well, in addition to one academic department.

'Each of these individuals represents what makes this University great our people," said Bruce Grube, president of Georgia Southern University. 'Whether leaders in their respective field, hall of famers or outstanding supporters of the institution, all of these outstanding individuals have made significant contributions to Georgia Southern University.'

During the ceremony, Grube presented only the fourth President's Medal to be awarded at Georgia Southern University to Terry L. Coleman, Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture and former Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives. The President's Medal is an honor that is reserved exclusively for those who have made extraordinary contributions, dedication and service to Georgia Southern University.

In recognizing the fourth recipient of the honor, President Bruce Grube said, 'Terry Coleman has made numerous contributions to Georgia Southern University during his 34 years of public service as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives. Probably his most visible contribution came through his leadership and support in the establishment of the University's College of Information Technology, the only one of its kind in the Southeast.'

In addition to the President's Medal, Grube also presented the Alumnus of the Year award to former quarterback and Eagle great Tracy Ham.

'Tracy's impact on Georgia Southern University has been well documented whether through his numerous athletics records or through his recent induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Even more impressive than his on-the-field heroics is his commitment to family and community off-the-field. I am proud to recognize someone who is not only one of the greatest collegiate quarterbacks to ever play the game, but a caring husband, father and friend.”

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2008 Georgia Southern University Alumni Award Winners

- President’s Medal

Terry L. Coleman, Deputy Commissioner, Georgia Department of Agriculture

- Alumnus of the Year

Tracy Ham (’95), Regional Account Manager, Sony Electronics

- Alumnus of the Year in Private Enterprise

Rod Meadows (’71) President, Meadows & Macie P.C.

- College of Information Technology Alumnus of the Year

Matthew Janofsky (’84), Vice President of Application Development, Gladiator Technology Services.

- Department of Biology Distinguished Biology Alumna

Charlene Jackson (’90), Lead Scientist and Microbiologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Athens, Ga., Bacterial Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance Research Unit

- College of Business Administration Alumna of the Year

Olivia Suggs Flanagan (’69), Retired Vice President, Flanagan and Waycaster Construction Company

- College of Education Alumnus of the Year

Norris B. Strickland (’53), Owner and resident, Norris B. Strickland and Associates, Inc.

- College of Health and Human Sciences Alumnus of the Year

Frank Hook (’71), Senior Director of Alumni Relations, Georgia Southern University

- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Alumnus of the Year

M. Albert Burke (’61) Northwestern Mutual Financial Network

- Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology Alumnus of the Year

James Becton, M.D., Physician Augusta Orthopedic Clinic

Georgia Southern University marketing students participate in international retail competition

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Eight marketing students from Georgia Southern University traveled to Toronto recently to participate in the 2008 American Collegiate Retailing Association's Charrette. Two came home with awards, and they all came home with a top-notch, hands-on retail experience.

'Our students did not work together as one team," said Kathleen Gruben, associate professor of marketing and director of the Center for Retail Studies. 'Each of the eight gained invaluable international experience by working with students from other states, Canada, and Europe." Gruben and Michael Thomas, assistant professor of management, marketing, and logistics, organized the trip, traveled with the students, and served as judges of the Charrette.

In a charrette, a diverse group of students works together to develop a business solution, and they present their findings to a panel of internal and external community members. A link at <http://acraretail.org/charette.html> offers video of the 2007 ACRA Charrette.

'For the students, the Charrette is similar to stepping into a 72-hour episode of 'The Apprentice," said Gruben. Georgia Southern participants included Kristen Cole, Erica Frederick, Stephanie Johnson, Travis Gilbert, Jennifer Hammond, Chelsey Smith, Lauren Thornhill, and Leann Walls. Kristen Cole's team earned first place, and her prize was a Sony Vaio notebook computer. Erica Frederick's team earned second place, and her prize was a \$500 shopping spree.

This year's students worked with Maple Leaf Sports Entertainment, which owns the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Raptors, and the Marlies. In the competition, each team of students was asked to design a 9000-square-foot store that will generate \$7 million in sales during its first year of operation. In addition to designing the store, the teams were required to develop an upscale private product line, create a business plan, write a marketing plan, create the merchandising and layout of the store, produce financial statements for up to five years, and present the results to the president of Maple Leaf Sports Entertainment, chairman of the Canadian Retail Council, and other key MSLE executives.

'All the teams did an amazing job," said Gruben. Gruben also recognized the financial support of Wal-Mart, Staffing Solutions, Burns World Travel, SAS, Walgreen's, Sea Island Bank, the Georgia Retail Association, and BB&T, which made the trip possible.